

KAISER NEEDS PERSIA

Germany Planning to Exploit Domain of Shah.

BRITISH INTERESTS MENACED

Commerce and Political Influences of England to Be Undermined by Emperor William's Subjects—Will Carefully Avoid Any Business Invasion Distasteful to Russia.

Berlin, April 20.—Germany, in need of new fields of expansion, has marked down Persia as a favorable country for exploitation, and elaborate plans have been worked out for the promotion of German commercial interests and the extension of German enterprise in the Shah's domain.

These plans are, on absolutely reliable information, to be carried out by German capitalists, supported by the German government, in spite of the fact that every step forward contemplated by the Germans involves an invasion of the recognized sphere of British influence and an attack on British interests in Persia.

Germany's schemes for exploiting Persia are so menacing to British interests that they merit serious attention on the part of his majesty's government.

Hitherto Great Britain and Russia have been the only powers with extensive influence at Teheran. North Persia has been recognized as the Russian sphere of influence, and South Persia as the British. The Anglo-Russian agreement, now practically concluded, provides for the removal of future causes of rivalry in Persia.

In British Sphere.

This arrangement between Great Britain and Russia is extremely distasteful to Germany, who desires to further her own ends in Persia. It is significant, however, that the commercial development now beginning is to be confined to South Persia, and carefully excluded from North Persia.

In plain words, this means that the German government is willing to patronize an invasion by German merchants of the British sphere of influence while carefully avoiding any action that could give offense to Russia. German protestations of friendship for England cannot conceal the fact that the scheme now begun in Persia with the consent and knowledge of the German government is an effort to gain a footing in a country adjacent to Britain's Indian empire.

An eminent authority on the Middle Eastern question has put it on record that the presence of any military power in South Persia would be a potential menace to India. Viewed in this light, the German commercial invasion appears still more menacing.

The German Orient Bank was founded more than a year ago to promote profitable enterprises in Eastern countries. Its own capital amounts to \$4,000,000, and its founders and backers are three of the most powerful institutions in Germany—the Dresdner Bank, the National Bank of Germany, and the Schaffhausen Banking Association. One of its directors, Herr Guttmann, Jr., is now at Teheran to begin practical business operations in Persia.

The plan of campaign has been carefully worked out, and begins with the establishment of a German bank at Teheran to compete with the British and Russian banks already there. The main object of this bank will be to secure concessions.

Commercial Center.

The German Orient Bank will also try to establish a great commercial center at the most favorable port on the Persian Gulf, obtaining a concession of territory as the site of the necessary buildings.

This would be the headquarters of a new German line of coasting steamships to distribute to all the Persian ports the German exports brought to the chosen commercial center by the Hamburg-American and other German lines.

The steamships of the Hamburg-American Company now plying in the Persian Gulf undercut their British competitors by charging 8 shillings a ton of freight, as compared with 12 shillings a ton rate of the British ships, and it is expected that the continuation of this policy will drive the British flag out of the gulf.

An audacious scheme of railway construction, seriously encroaching on British rights, completes the project of the German Orient Bank. It is stated that one of these projected German railways, running from Teheran to Bagdad, would earn profits by simply conveying the corpses of pious Persians to two holy places southward of Bagdad, where the Persian Moslems desire to be buried. Another projected railway, running from Bagdad eastward and then southward to the new German commercial center on the Persian Gulf, would provide the urgently needed terminals for the Bagdad railway.

The German government recently appointed a new minister at Teheran, Herr Steinrich, an expert in Oriental affairs, to promote German commercial interests in Persia. One of Herr Steinrich's first acts was to recommend an immediate extension of German enterprises.

DEAD MAN GIVES BANQUET.

Provides Entertainment for All Who Attended His Funeral.

Paris, April 20.—A banquet under peculiar auspices took place in a restaurant here last night.

The cost of the dinner was \$3 per head, and was defrayed out of a special bequest made by the late M. Naisant, formerly a functionary at the ministry of justice.

He died a few days ago, and in his will was a clause directing that all those who followed his remains to the cemetery were to dine at his expense.

A report of the proceedings states that "the utmost good feeling prevailed," and during the meal a toast to the memory of the departed was proposed by the undertaker.

M. Naisant was a Knight of the Legion of Honor, and in accordance with the instructions contained in the will, each of the soldiers belonging to the detachment which rendered military honors received a present of \$1.00.

TORPEDO DESTROYER LOST.

The Ariel Collided with Breakwater. One Man Drowned.

Valetta, Island of Malta, April 20.—While maneuvering during a night attack outside the Grand Harbor last yesterday the British torpedo destroyer Ariel collided with the breakwater and sank. One man was drowned.

The Ariel lies in deep water, and it is expected that she will be a total loss.

Grave as an Asset.

Cape Town, April 20.—Among the assets of an octogenarian named George Ruck, who appeared in the Cape Town Bankruptcy Court, was a piece of ground containing the grave, with monument, of his wife, who died some years ago.



PALATE BEATS FINGER PRINTS.

Surgeon Declares Method Infallible in Identifying Prisoners.

Vienna, April 20.—Dr. Paul Prager, an army surgeon, who has made a special study of methods of identification, recommends that prisoners should be identified by the shape of their palates. He thinks the system far more efficacious than by finger prints.

Dr. Prager declares that the method would be much more reliable than any at present used, for among the thousands of molds he has taken of the interior of the human mouth he has failed to find two which even slightly resembled each other. He says that though the teeth alter greatly with time, the markings of the palate remain unchanged throughout life. The individuality of the palate is greater and more permanent than that of any other part of the body, and a detective force which possessed a large collection of mouth-molds would have a guide infinitely safer than a gallery of finger prints.

MEDAL FOR COLORED SOLDIER.

Gets Equivalent of Victoria Cross from Dutch Government.

Amsterdam, April 20.—The Netherlands government has conferred a unique decoration on a colored private named Ponge, of the colonial army, for conspicuous bravery in the field.

Ponge was made a Knight of the Military Order of William, which is equivalent to the British Victoria Cross. The motto of this coveted order, which is held by only thirteen members of the Indian army, mostly officers of high rank, is: "For valor, ability, and faithfulness." Years ago the Dutch authorities found it advisable to create a special order of reward for colored soldiers.

The red tape view was that a negro might be valorous and faithful, but he could not officially claim military ability, so the colonial medal for natives bears the words "For valor and faithfulness" only. Ponge is the first native to achieve the distinction of the full order.

BOOKS BRING \$370,000.

Library of Sir Henry St. John Mildmay Sold by Sotheby.

London, April 20.—A selected portion of the library of Sir Henry St. John Mildmay was sold to-day at Sotheby's. The total of the sale was \$370,000.

Among the sales were Miles Coverdale's Translation of the Bible, first edition, 1535, \$55; Chubb's "Enseigne des Vaisseau de Roi," 1753, \$100; de Bry's "Grandes et Petites Voyages," 1626, \$300; John Gower's "Confessio Amantis," Black letter, folio, A. D. 1432, \$1,500; Shakespeare's first folio edition, cut down to 12 by 7 1/2 inches, Isaac Jagard and William Blount, 1623, \$3,000; Shakespeare, second impression, printed by T. Cotes for Richard Meigson, 1734, by 8 1/2 inches, \$1,150; Edmund Spenser's "The Faerie Queene," second part, fourth, fifth, and sixth books, 1590-95, \$750.

FUSHIMI GOING TO ENGLAND

Envoy of the Mikado to Visit King Edward.

Prince, Who Is Relative of Japanese Sovereign, Leaving Quiet Life in Paris.

Paris, April 20.—Prince Fushimi, the Mikado's foster-brother, who is staying at the Hotel Continental in Paris, will arrive in England in the first week of May, to return, as his Emperor's representative, the visit of the Carter Mission to Japan.

The prince is a very exalted person in the councils of the Mikado, and ranks immediately after the crown prince. During his stay in Paris he has led a very quiet and retired life, his chief enjoyment being the opera or the theater. He is very European in his tastes, and is very European in his tastes, and is very European in his tastes.

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Charcoal merchant in Bucharest.

THREATEN MASSACRE

Persians Plan Revenge if Murderers Are Punished.

VICTIM A RUSSIAN SUBJECT

Troops Ordered to Scene of Trouble Delayed on Account of Lack of Funds to Defray Traveling Expenses—Crowds Await Shah's Reply Regarding Demands for Work.

Tehran, April 20.—The secretary of the Russian consulate at Meshed, in spite of the protests against his passage made by the governor of Meshed, has arrived at Sabzevar, where an Armenian, a Russian subject, was recently murdered. The Russians are encamped outside the gates of the town, awaiting the arrival from here of a commission appointed to investigate the matter. Persian troops will go with the commission; but the start will be delayed for some days owing to the want of \$4,000 to defray expenses.

Threats to massacre Russian subjects if the murderers of the Armenian are punished are, it is stated, placarded in the streets of Sabzevar.

Hundreds of unemployed, forming a crowd, which is increasing every minute, are awaiting in a public square the reply of the Shah to their demand for work. No favorable reply is possible in the present state of industry. Looting is feared. The subscribers to the national bank are refusing to pay up. The promoters have informed the national assembly of their inability to furnish the government with a loan. A foreign loan is now certain, but no small advance will satisfy the government needs.

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School children on way to church.

Types of Roumanian Peasants Recently in Revolt.

In the history of Roumania it was always the land question which roused the fiercest political strife. So, too, it is the land question in Roumania, that picturesque and romantic relic of Roman legions, and to have preserved intact through centuries of wars and misfortunes something of the old Roman spirit.

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Picturesque costumes at Roumanian wedding.

Monarch Faints Several Times on Receiving News of Bombardment of Towns Held by Insurgents. Feared He Will Not Rally from the Shock Occasioned by Revolution.

Bucharest, April 20.—King Charles is in a critical condition in consequence of the excitement and anxiety occasioned by the peasants' rising.

He fainted several times on receiving the news of the bombardment of towns held by the insurgents and the indiscriminate slaughter of peasants. His majesty insisted on receiving the fullest possible details of the crisis.

The doctors have ordered his majesty to keep aloof from state business, and he is not now permitted to see any reports. The Queen (Carmen-Sylvia) is devoting all her time to nursing King Charles. It is feared, however, that he will not rally from the shock occasioned by the revolution.

Roumania is now threatened by an economic crisis, in consequence of the enormous loss of property in many parts of the country. The destruction of practically all agricultural machinery and farm buildings will prevent the usual spring tilling, and widespread famine is feared, as the majority of the granaries have been burned.

Thousands of people are utterly ruined, as both the state and the fire insurance companies refuse compensation for the damage done by the rebels and government troops.

M. Cantacuzene, the former premier, states that the rising of the peasants was instigated by foreign emissaries, many of whom were disguised as priests or women.

Prince Carol, the twelve-year-old son of the crown prince of Roumania, is serving with the cadet corps which is guarding the royal palace. When the crown prince passes, the young prince gravely salutes his mother with the rest of the guard.

Land-holders who have appealed to the government for protection have been assured that order is being restored rapidly throughout the disaffected provinces. To-day's reports show that these districts are comparatively quiet, and some of the loyal troops are being sent back to Bucharest.

Extreme tension still prevails in the Roumanian capital in consequence of the fear of a coup d'etat. Nearly sixty alleged revolutionaries, including several Russians and Servians and two Germans, have been arrested, and a large quantity of incriminating documents seized.

Naval Lieutenant Sentenced to Month's Arrest for Insubordination.

Paris, April 20.—Lieut. Maurin, second in command on the coast defense battleship Valmy, has been ordered to undergo a month's close arrest for insubordination of an extraordinary kind.

He and his superior officer were drawing up a list of sailors to be recommended for promotion, when they quarreled over some of the names proposed. Eventually the lieutenant refused to discuss the matter any longer, and walked away.

Paris, April 20.—A woman named Marguerite Bois, known as "Lucia, the Queen of the Brigands," according to the Matin, has been the instigator of a number of crimes perpetrated by a band of robbers in the south and west of France, who are now under arrest.

This woman has had a remarkable career. Early in life she gained a reputation for recklessness and cruelty. When only ten years old, she rode a horse that no one else could approach, and went to sleep in the stable with her head on its hoofs. At the age of seventeen, she met a man named Brancome, who had already been implicated in several crimes, and married him.

Lucia enticed him on to other crimes to satisfy her taste for luxuries. Under her guidance a band of brigands was formed, of which she was the acknowledged queen.

MUSTACHES ON STRIKE.

Men Servants of Turin Form Anti-shaving League.

Turin, April 20.—The men servants of Turin held a meeting yesterday, at which a resolution was passed to the effect that a protest should be held before the prefect of the town against the action of masters who forced their lackeys to shave.

In the event of their not obtaining permission to grow mustaches, the servants have decided to go on strike.

First Parliament of the Transvaal—Swearing in Members.

The picture shows Lord Selborne in the chair swearing in the members. On his right Gen. Botha is seen. The opening of Parliament has been a great success, and Gen. Botha is now in England attending the Colonial Conference. Another remarkable eulogy of the new Parliament appeared in the London Times last week, which declared that the Transvaal has "started on its political life in a way that must give genuine satisfaction to every loyal citizen of the empire."

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